

BARG Newsletter August 2025

***Ballarat Amateur Radio Group Inc. #6953T
August 2025 Monthly Newsletter***

**Next General Meeting BARG inc
11:00am, Saturday 30th August 2025
At the Airport - All Welcome**

Contacting us

BARG@BARG.ORG.AU

We're on the web.

www.barg.org.au

https://twitter.com/vk3_barg

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/VK3BML/>



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Front Page Contributor Colin, VK3NCC. Sunset, Aramac, Queensland

Times and dates of nets as below

Club Nets: VHF NET: Every Tuesday Night at 8 pm on 146.750 MHz - VK3RBA

HF NET: Every Thursday Night at 8 pm on 3.608 MHz - VK3BML

6m NET: Every Tuesday Night at 8:30 pm on 53.650Mhz RX / 52.650Mhz TX - FM with a 91.5 tone - VK3RWU

LINKED REPEATERS: *The local VK3RBA-70cm repeater on Mt Buninyong is part of a network of linked repeaters covering North-Western Victoria.*

Access details for this repeater have recently changed.

For full details of this linked network and access details

see <https://www.grz.com/lookup/vk3rba>

You can listen to the system live <http://vk3rba.dyndns.org:441/>

This linked system may be accessed via IRLP node 9503



President's Report August 2025



This is my last President's Report as I will be standing down from President after the August General Meeting. I will however be remaining a committee member for now.

So let us talk Hamvention again, if you are a club member and have not checked your email in the last few weeks, please do so there is some information there for you, the email may be sent again at some stage soon and also it will get a mention at the August General Meeting.

The new repeater for VK3RBT has arrived, and we just need the weather and time to install it.

I am told the clubs 2-meter net is lacking some support and numbers have been down of late if you can get access to RBA or RWA you can join in at 8pm every Tuesday night. I have not been able to attend in a while due to other commitments but now that they have past I should be back.

Cheers, 73s
Ben VK3NRD

BARG inc. OFFICE BEARERS

President	Ben Daniel VK3NRD	Ordinary Member	Tom George VK3DMK
Vice President	Colin Consiglio VK3NCC	Ordinary Member	Ian Fairweather VK3YFD
Secretary	Peter Westgarth VK3APW	Ordinary Member	Doug Ellery VK3DRE
Treasurer	Chris Huggins VK3QY	Ordinary Member	David Martin VK3KQT
Ordinary Member	Craig Cook VK3KG	Ordinary Member	Mal White VK3OAK
Ordinary Member	Paul Black VK3TXR		

The BARG Annual General Meeting **And General Meeting**

Saturday 30th of August 2025 11:00am

Members please note;

Membership Fee of \$40.00

Falls due on the 1st July 2025

You must be a payed up member at the
time of the AGM to vote and be
nominated for club positions

GEORGE FOWLER AUCTION 2025



The Ballarat Amateur
Radio Group
Annual George Fowler
Auction
will take place on
Sunday 14th
September 2025.



Youth Net on the Link System

Contributor James VK3JFR

24/8/2025

VK4IKZ, VK3JFR, VK4AHA, VK3BKO, VK3CWS,
VK3XEM, VK3NFL, VK4NGA

17/8/2025

VK4IKZ, VK3JFR, VK4AHA, VK4MCW, VK3CWS,
VK3XEM, VK3HOR, VK3BKO, VK3FETC

3/8/2025

VK4IKZ, VK3JFR, VK3HOR, VK4NGA, VK4AHA,
VK3BA, VK3XEM, VK4DAT, VK3ASP, VK4MCW,
VK3NFL, VK3FETC, VK3BKO, VK3CWS, VK3HJQ



Man: 'Doctor, I think my DNA is backwards...'
Doctor: 'And?'

How to write "I changed a lightbulb" on your resume:
"Single-handedly managed the successful upgrade and deployment of a new
environmental illumination system with zero cost overruns and no safety incidents."

9M1957M – Malaysia Independence Day Special Event Station

9M1957M commemorates the 68th anniversary of Malaysia's independence in 1957. This special callsign is activated by Terengganu DX members in West Malaysia.



Event Details

Event Name: Event Malaysia Independence Day (Merdeka Tanah Melayu)

CQ Date: 01 August, 2025 - 30 September, 2025

Event Date: 30 & 31 August, 2025

QTH: Bandar Baru Kuala Nerus, Terengganu, West Malaysia

Coordinates: 5.3912° N, 103.0834° E

Mode: SSB, CW, FT8, DIGITAL (TERENGGANU NET 5020550)

Band: 10M - 80M (ALL BAND)

Operating Team

Station Master: 9M2ZIZ - AZIZ

Station Manager: 9M2TDX - DR WAN

Event Manager: 9M2FAR - AZFAR

Log Manager: 9M2RDX - KHALID

Officers:

9M2MSL - SUKRI, 9M2JHZ - JAMALLUDDIN, 9M2OKB - FATAH, 9M2OZF - FAIZUL,
9M2JUE - JUNAIDA, 9W2GKJ - SUKIMIN, 9W2LOJ - HALIYAH, 9W2ZKI - ZAKI,
9W6ZAT - IZZAT, 9W2CVT - YUSOF, 9W2UDX - HANIF



9W2CVT, 9M2OZF, 9M2JUE, 9M2MSL, 9W2LOJ, 9W2ZKI, 9W2ONQ, 9W2GKJ, 9M2TDX, 9M2RDX,
9M2JHZ, 9M2ZIZ, 9M2FAR

terengganudxteam@gmail.com

QSL To;

68th MALAYSIA INDEPENDENCE DAY (MERDEKA) TERENGGANU DX – ARRES

1726 KAMPUNG MAKAM MUKIM KEPONG

20050 KUALA TERENGGANU, TERENGGANU, WEST MALAYSIA, TG 20050

West Malaysia

Tweaking Commercial Tapped Whips:

Contributor, Robert VK3ARM.

I've never been a fan of auto-tune antennas on HF. In the case of the commercial ones, I think that they're essentially a length of stainless steel on top of a mystery box. I know they're convenient. You don't need to get out of your vehicle to change frequencies/bands, particularly when it's raining or you're parked in mud. On the VKS-737 Network my experience is that travellers using tapped whips always get out noticeably better than those with autotunes. That's why I stick to tapped whips. They're a real antenna.

Okay, enough of my prejudice. To the story at hand...

I have four tapped whips. Two old Amateur ones are from the early 80s, one for 80 and 40 and another that works 20, 15 and 10. I also have two more newer Terlin whips with both VKS and Amateur taps and the subject of this article is my most recent Terlin whip that is only 965mm long with no adjustable tip.

A friend of mine who lives on Kangaroo Island had purchased the same length antenna for VKS-737 and I was impressed about how well it worked. So I purchased this shortly around seven years ago to use locally on VKS Radio Network but also requested two additional spots for 3.600MHz and 7.100MHz. I wanted the short whip to avoid having to remove the longer Terlin every time I parked in the garage at home.

When it arrived, it was good on all taps except 40 metres. This tap tuned best on 7.040MHz so about three turns of 8 Amp fuse wire above that tap brought the centre frequency up to around 7.110MHz. Simple! It had a useable band width of about 40 kHz and I was happy with that at the time. I could happily work from 7.090MHz to about 7.130MHz.

Forward on to 2025 and I've been regularly making contact with park stations when mobile. Trouble is, with the bulk of the activity above 7.140 the short whip was well outside the useable area I wanted and I was back to putting on/taking off the long whip. Eventually sick of that, I decided to experiment to see how far I could nudge the shorty up without losing 7.100MHz.

With tapped whips, I can nudge tap frequencies up a bit by winding fuse wire above the tap I want to adjust, in this case the 40 metre tap. Generally I move the wire up and down a bit in the space above that tap to determine what works best without upsetting the tap above.



Using my MFJ-259B and having some success, wrapping wire over the top of my previous job to raise 40 metres closer to a point where I wanted it to work in the Park's region, I got a bit adventurous and added even more loops in the same area to see how far I could go without upsetting VKS Channel TWO tap (8022 kHz), the tap immediately above.

Having run out of fuse wire, I added some thin solder to see what it would achieve. Much to my joy I ended up with about 75kHz of useable bandwidth within 2:1 SWR limits (7.090MHz to 7.165MHz) with still reasonable impedance figures across the range.

Now, my motley brain was thinking that I was adding capacitance at this spot however, adding capacitance to an antenna actually lowers its resonant frequency (resident for Cbers). The wire I've wrapped around is not connected in any way to the antenna, nor is it insulated from itself so I'm at a bit of a loss why adding these turns of wire have actually increased the frequency of the 40 metre segment on my whip and increased its band width. It's essentially just a big blob of metal wrapped around the antenna at that point, like having turns of insulated antenna wire inside a jam tin. Have I created a small Inductor at this point? Maybe I have. But it works! Maybe age is getting to me! Ooohh!

My Codan Envoy seemed to be quite happy with my results and on-air the short antenna was getting out and receiving very well. Most importantly, I didn't upset any of its other taps and I now had the ability to work a decent swathe of 40 metres when mobile.

I finished the job, sealing my work by applying liberal amounts of 5 Minute Araldite around what was now a bulbous region above the 40 metre tap and rotated the antenna, rotisserie fashion until the Araldite set without running. Next day I applied two coats of black paint.

I've never found a way to actually decrease the useable frequency of a particular tap on one of these antennas without massacring it. Someone else might have an idea.

Buying a tapped whip antenna and assuming that each tap is spot on with what you ordered, is not a good choice. Different locations on different vehicles have a sometimes negative affect on antenna tuning. If you own tapped whips, check the tuning of all its spots.

An antenna analyser is best for this. If you find that any of your taps are lower than what you want, give this method a try. You might be pleasantly surprised with the result. Oh, one more thing, earth, earth, EARTH!

Cheers Robert VK3ARM.



A man was in a shoe shop trying on a shoe.
He said to the assistant, "It's too tight".
She said, "Try it with the tongue out".
He said, "It'th nho ghoo, itth thill thoo thight".

Scenes from BARG VK3BML RD CONTEST

On Saturday 16th August a number of club members ventured out to the club rooms to conduct our contribution to the RD.

From 1300 local to 2000 local we logged in 130 stations, most on 40m, with a few 20m and later in the evening quite a few on 80m.



Among the stations operating that weekend, Lighthouses on the Air was also conducting their annual activity and happily provided numbers for the RD.

A fine effort and we will be keen to see the contest results.

The club received the above email QSL card from VK5NL.

The person who invented the Ferris Wheel never met the person who invented the Merry Go Round.

They travelled in different circles.



2025 VKFF TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP

Saturday 11th October 2025
0000 UTC - 2359 UTC

What is it all about?.....

The VKFF Team Championship is held over a 24-hour period. A maximum of 6 hours in that period can be utilised by participants. Teams of amateurs compete against each other, with the goal of obtaining the greatest number of contacts, whilst activating from a qualifying VKFF park or parks.

How do I take part?.....

Create a team of 2 amateurs. Come up with a name for your team. Decide which section you wish to enter into. **Register** with VK5PAS, the VKFF National Co-Ordinator via vkffaustralia@gmail.com. Head out to a qualifying VKFF park and compete against other teams of activators.

Prizes.....

Each team member will receive a participation certificate.

Winners will receive a certificate and a glass plaque.

More information?.....Detailed information on the VKFF Team Championship can be found on the WWFF Australia website at [.....](https://www.wwffaustralia.com/vkff-team-championship.html)

<https://www.wwffaustralia.com/vkff-team-championship.html>



QTech 2025

The future of amateur radio is in your hands.

Nov 1 & 2, 2025

Brisbane VHF Group proudly presents the inaugural **QTech 2025** – a weekend conference all about amateur radio.

A program filled with inspiring presentations, live demonstrations, construction projects and more, including:

- YOTA
- Future of AR Townhall
- Ham radio hotspots
- VK9CV DXpedition
- Lightning Scatter
- ARISS Live feed
- POTA [Display]
- Deep Space reception
- Future of VHF/uWave Beacons
- IC-905 Expansion
- 10GHz EME
- 241GHz
- And much more

Dates & Times: Sat November 1st, 2025
9:00am - Sun November 2nd,
2025 12:00pm AEST

Location: Kedron-Waveill RSL
21 Kittyhawk Dr,
Chermside, Brisbane QLD 4032
Or streamed online

Dinner: Saturday night [at additional cost]

Tickets:



Places to stay: 25-min travel from BNE airport.
List of local accommodation options available on event web site.

Costs: \$125 + booking fee
Includes Sat morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea, Sunday morning tea
\$30 + booking fee [streamed online only]



What Happened Here?

Contributor Tom VK3DMK

In the course of my work, equipment of various electronic and electrical types appear on my work bench.

The item in this picture to the left is a high voltage DC power supply, 800Vdc. Used to power an inverter for an industrial microwave oven.

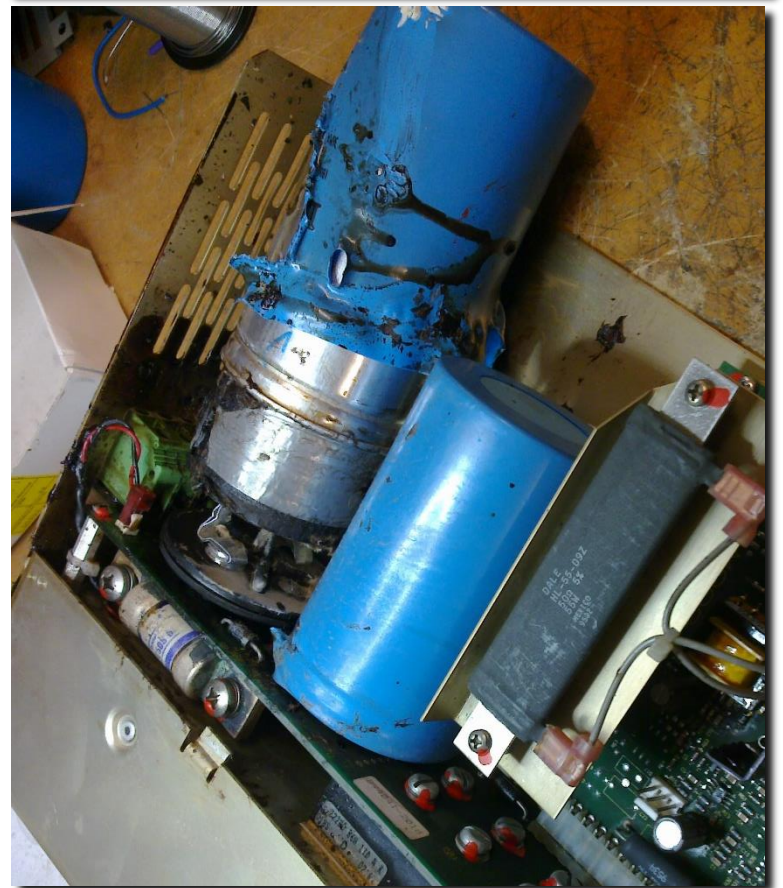
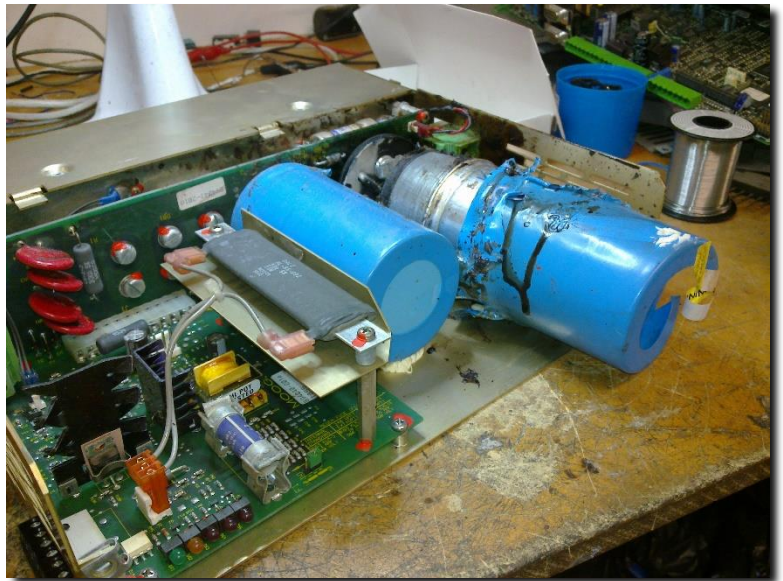
The only failure was that one electrolytic capacitor, the other one in series with it tested to within specifications.

This supply was probably 10 years or more old and age had caught up with the large capacitor, sorry I can't remember the value but the voltage rating of the mis-shaped component was 450Vdc. The circuitry was enclosed in a case and when the capacitor failed the can was pushed up against the case wall.

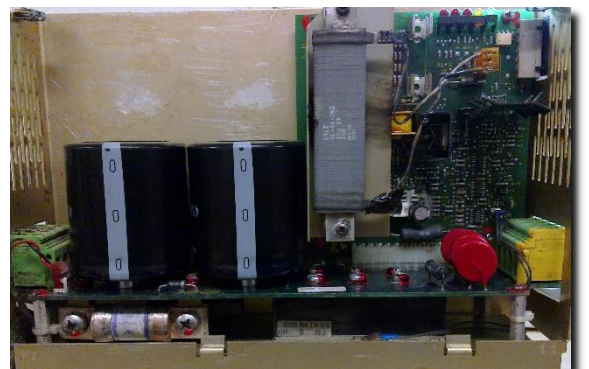
The next picture shows the lower end of the unit and how the capacitor's insides spread across and around the PCB.

This power supply is housed in a cabinet and the customer only new of the failure by the drop in performance of the oven.

The repair job involved a lot of cleaning with isopropyl and stout brushes.



The last picture shows the repaired unit with the more modern caps in place. Cheers. Tom VK3DMK.



Next Project Horus Launch – Horus 65 – Cross-band Repeater & Wenet – Take 2!



Posted on [2025-08-14](#) by [VK5QI](#)

We're giving it another go! AREG's High-Altitude Ballooning sub-group, Project Horus, is planning their next launch for **Sunday the 7th of September**, with a **planned launch time of 10 AM ACST**. If we have to scrub due to poor weather, the backup launch date will be the 14th of September.

This will be a re-flight of the Horus 63 payloads, which will include our cross-band repeater payload and Wenet imagery payload. **This time we hope to achieve a burst altitude of >35km, which will enable repeater coverage between Adelaide and Melbourne! We are looking for stations in Victoria and South-West NSW to listen out for balloon telemetry, and give us a call on the repeater!**

This launch is currently planned to be performed from the [Mt Barker High School Oval](#) with the launch team arriving on site from around 9:15 AM. Note that access to the oval is via Stephenson street, and parking near the oval is extremely limited.

TRACKING LINKS

- **Flight Tracking via SondeHub-Amateur:**
<https://amateur.sondehub.org/#!mt=Mapnik&mz=9&qm=12h&mc=-35.0677,139.23902>
- **Live Wenet Imagery:** <https://ssdv.habhub.org/>
- **Telemetry Dashboard:** Link TBD

Details of the frequencies in use on this flight are:

- **FM Crossband Repeater:** 145.075 MHz Input (91.5 Hz CTCSS), 438.975 MHz output.
- **Wenet Imagery** on 443.5 MHz. (**Now receivable using a web browser! See below!**)
- **Primary Horus Binary telemetry** on 434.200 MHz
- **Backup Horus Binary payload**, on 434.210 MHz

On this flight we encourage new listeners to try out our new web-browser-based decoding software for Horus Binary and Wenet – find out more about this further below!

During the flight, all the payloads can be tracked lived on the [SondeHub-Amateur tracker here!](#)

MOONAMBEL HF RADIO GET TOGETHER 2025



Another get-together weekend is planned at Moonambel for anyone with even a vague interest in HF radio. It's on from Friday 17th until Sunday 19th October.

Traditionally this was a weekend for members of the VKS-737 Radio Network and was very well supported, both by VKS people and some from other HF Radio networks, that was, until the Pandemic hit. It never really recovered its previous numbers after that. Part of the reason was that some previous supporters of the event were of an age or level of health, that prevented their continued support.

Last year we also threw it open to Amateur Radio Operators, especially as it's a nice spot for portable operations. We had Terry (VK3UP) come along, myself and another Amateur who rocked up, looking for an overnight camp spot but not aware of the function. In total we had about 15 there, along with some other campers who socialised with us.

We stay at the Recreation Reserve, just on the Avoca side of Moonambel. It's not a long trip from Ballarat, or even from Horsham. People camp around the field. There are a number of powered spots available. The Moonambel committee charges \$18 a night for power, first in best dressed. Sites can't be booked in advance. It's cheaper for those fully self-contained. Good showers and toilets are on site, otherwise it's bring your own everything. There is accommodation that can be booked in and around Moonambel. For a day visit, it's not that far from Ballarat.

Some come just for the Friday to Sunday period, some arrive on Thursday. We also get day visitors.

Moonambel is 118km by road from Horsham, 91km from Ballarat, 60 odd kilometres from Ararat or Stawell and only 45 kilometres from Maryborough.

For Parks and Peaks people, check out the map. Most of the sites shown have never been worked (as at mid-August).

If you want to support this event, let Robert (VK3ARM) know so we get an idea on numbers. We have a get-together tea on Saturday night under the awning of the pavilion. Bring along a mystery wrapped present, anything you like. They go on a table and are raffled off, with funds going to a nominated, good cause.

See you there! Robert VK3ARM

Play your part!!

Join today!

Community Service

Education & Examination

Representation

Bookshop

Publications

Technical Services



WIRELESS INSTITUTE OF AUSTRALIA
Phone (03) 9729 0400
Email nationaloffice@wia.org.au

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Send to **WIA Membership**
PO Box 2042
Bayswater VIC 3153

Mr/Mrs/Ms

Given Names

Family Name

Preferred Name

Street Address

City/Town State Postcode Country

Callsign Date of Birth dd/mm/yyyy

Occupation

Tick which period and fee.

Membership	☐ 1 year	☐ 5 year
Member	☐ \$95	☐ \$451
Overseas Member	☐ \$105	☐ \$500
Concession Member*	☐ \$80	☐ \$380
Student**	☐ \$35	
Additional Family Member***	☐ \$36	

* Please provide pension health benefits card number.

** Please provide evidence below of being a full-time student.

*** Please provide name and callsign of primary family member residing at the same address.

Provide concession details

.....
.....

Home Telephone

Work Telephone (optional)

Mobile Telephone (optional)

Email Address

I apply for membership of the Wireless Institute of Australia and agree to be bound by its constitution (available on the WIA Website).

I enclose ☐ Cash ☐ Cheque or ☐ Money Order for \$

or authorise payment of \$ by way of debit

to my ☐ MasterCard ☐ Visa Credit Card

CVC

Card No.

Expiry Date ____/____ Name on Card

Signature of Applicant Date ____/____

Magazine Reviews

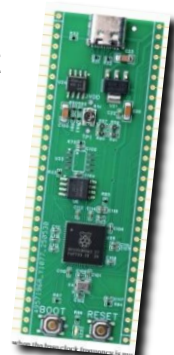
Amateur Radio Review Volume 93 Number 4

- P4 Editorial. Roger VK2ZRH. Tackles poor on-air behaviour and the positive role clubs can play in shaping attitudes.
- P6 Your WIA working for you. Roger VK2ZRH. The WIA's detailed response to the IARU restructure proposal shows the risks of losing regional influence and financial equity.
- P9 WIA News. Bendigo AGM & Tech Festival, a successful ARISS school contact, and contests both local and international. YOTA 2025.
- P11 What Happens when you hit push-to-talk. Part 2. George VK3EIP. Continuation of the exploration of how push-to-talk really works (Larmor radiation explained in plain language).
- P17 Product Review. RigExpert's MATCH analyser, an antenna and cable analyser, 100kHz to 230MHz.
- P21 Product Review. Ailunce HS4 28 MHz transceiver. 35W with SSB, CW, AM and FM.
- P23 Product Review. Tecsun 10 m vertical antenna. An easy entry 10m DX Vertical Antenna.
- P28 A wireless-controlled antenna coupler for 136 kHz and 475 kHz. Peter VK6HP, VK6MJM. An antenna for operating on the lowest amateur bands, large coils antenna matching apparatus.
- P36 An inner suburban 9-band long wire beam antenna. David 'Doc' VK5BUG. Home construction of a vertical helical HF antenna with wire ground plane.
- P45 Practical help for lovers of old TET beams and newer TET-Emtron models. Mark VK6MOA. Interesting and detailed article on restoring the old TET beam and hints for the newer models.
- P48 Know your RF earth resistance. Dale VK1DSH. Knowledge shared while investigating and experimenting with earth systems, mainly how to find out what your "earth" is like.
- P52 Basics of Delta Modulation. Elmo VK7CJ. A look at the pros and cons of this form of modulation along with easy to read block diagrams of Tx and Rx.
- P54 Technical Correspondence From the Editor in Chief, Roger VK2ZRH. Couplers, Tuners and Newcomers, What is a coupler?, Reflections on SWR.
- P56 ALARA. Norma VK2YL. ALARA celebrates 50 years, ALARA visits Redfest, ALARA members meet at Bendigo AGM. WA STEM showcase for girls. Space adventures. Bridgette's radio holiday. YLs pass the test. Upcoming contests.
- P59 Below 25. Alec VK2MV. Activities of VK4KSS in contesting, AGM at Bendigo and the ISS contact.
- P62 WestNews. Will VK6UU. The 23cm band in WA, strange beam heading, 23cm on Rottnest Island and Long delayed echoes.
- P63 Contesting Brian VK3MI/ZL1AZE.
- P64 WIA DX Awards. Marc VK3OHM/VK3IP



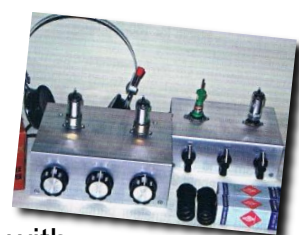
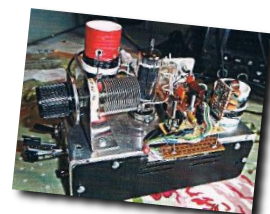
Silicon Chip Review August 2025

- P2 Editorial Viewpoint. Nicholas Vinen. Supplier Price Increases. Tariffs and Australia Post.
- P4 Mailbag.
- P11 SPACEX Part 2. David VK3DSM. This time looking at the launch sites and future missions and projects.
- P23 Cooling Audio Amplifiers. Julian Edgar. What you need to look at when trying to cool your amp, heatsinks, fans, heat exchangers and how to size your system.
- P34 Using Electronic Modules. Tim Blythman. Thin-Film Pressure Sensor. How to interface your micro-controller with these analog sensors.
- P38 USB-C Power Monitor. Part 1. Tim Blythman. A handy bit of gear to have on the bench to let you see just what the USB-C power supply is doing. Uses a PIC controller and an OLED display.
- P46 RP2350B Development Board. Geoff Graham/Peter Mather. A unit to get you into high end micro-controllers, features a high number of handy I/O of the 2350B board.
- P52 Review. RIGOL DH0924S Digital Oscilloscope. Tim Blythman. A compact 4ch, 125MHz or 250MHz with parallel and serial protocols. Lots of features with a 7inch LCD screen.
- P59 Review. RIGOL DM858 Multimeter. 5.5 digit display, HDMI, Ethernet and USB connections with an integrated scope function.
- P60 Mic the Mouse. John Clark. A little fun project to prank and entertain, a small PCB with button cell power and PIC controller on board. Uses a Mems microphone and a beeper it responds to noise with a noise and flash of an onboard LED.
- P67 The Boeing 737 MAX and MCAS. A predictable disaster. Brandon Speedie. Explains the cause of the fatal crashes of two of these Boeing aircraft due to an electronic part.
- P74 Ducted Heat Transfer Controller. Part 1. Julian Edgar/John Clark. A unit that controls the mains powered fan of your ducted heating system, to help optimise your home heating. With manual, timed and automatic modes including fire alarms and sensor monitoring.
- P82 Circuit Notebook. Highspeed transmission using regular optocouplers. Wireless battery charger, Three-way latch.
- P84 Serviceman's Log. Objects in mirrors, Cable repair on a fan, Fixing a laser printer, voltmeter that only looked perfect.
- P91 Vintage Radio. Graham Parslow. Silvertone Model 18 AM/FM mantel radio from 1952. FM in the USA was beginning in this era and this Bakelite mantel radio was produced for the leading department stores of the time. Using 8 valves in a superhet configuration.
- P100 Ask Silicon Chip.



SPRAT Review Summer 2025

- P2 Editorial. Steve G0FUW. Convention time.
- P3 A Broadband HF Solid State Pre-Amp, Steve G0FMY. A solution to simple regen receivers transmitting a weak carrier, add an amp.
- P4 Minimalistic 3 Tube Receiver, Oliver F5LVG. Designed in the spirit of the AA5 wartime utility radio, a line up of three valves and plug in coils for 15m, 20m, 40m and 80m.
- P7 QRP Experiments on 10m, Roger G3XMB. Experimenting with how little power is required on 10m for a worldwide QSO.
- P8 Using the 12Zh1L Russian Valve, Paul G4MD. Looks at the characteristics of this valve and it possible uses in QRP.
- P10 Connect ESP32 to an LCD Safely, Steven M0YYT. A circuit to connect the 3V3 ESP32 to a 5V logic I2C LCD, this circuit caters for the bi-direction operation of I2C.
- P11 An Audio Signal Injector, Dave M0KSC. This three transistor oscillator is invaluable for simple bit of bench test gear.
- P12 M1GWZ Goes Loopy! Phil M1GWZ. A simple backyard loop that performed admirably on 20m and 10m.
- P14 Sixbox Revisited, Roger G3XBM. How the 6M QRP Transceiver can be added to and or improved, using a super-regenerative receiver.
- P15 Communication & Activity Report, Enzo M0KTZ. Activity on the bands over summer and certificates available to QRPers. International QRP Day, Suffolk Trophy, 50 Years Low and Clear, Weekly QRP Activity Slots and Join the GQRP Reflector.
- P17 Testing JFETs, Tribal Knowledge.
- P18 Homebrew – From Key(er) to PA Stage, Peter G4UMB. A keyer and 10W valve output transmitter, for 80m, 40m and 60m.
- P20 Supplementary Antennas for Elecraft KH-1, Reinhart DC1YY. Adding a counterpoise and antenna matching unit to the tiny HF radio.
- P21 Putting the QMX+ on 8m Transmit, Roger G3XBM. Modifying and programming the QMX+ from QRP Labs.
- P22 Valved QRP Report, Paddy G4MAD. Reports from GQRP members operating with homebrew and established valve equipment.
- P25 G-QRP Convention & Telford Hamfest 2025.
- P26 Member's news, Chris G4BUE. News, activities and contacts with QRP from around the world.



BENEFITS OF A GOOD VOCABULARY!

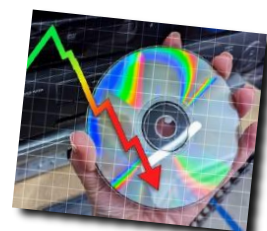
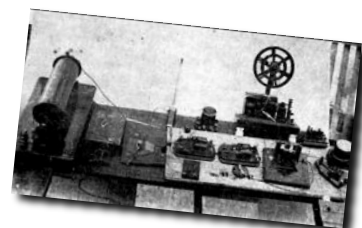
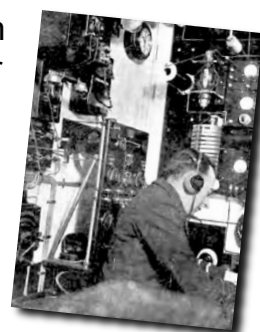
My husband recently called an old engineering buddy of his and asked what he was working on these days.

He replied that he was working on "aqua-thermal treatment of ceramics, aluminium, and steel under a constrained environment."

He was impressed - until he learned that his buddy was actually just washing dishes with hot water under his wife's supervision.

Old Timer's News Review Number 76, September 2025

- P3 From the Editor, New RAOTC website, archived editions of the news are available on site.
- P3 From the Committee, Gordon VK3ZKK. Thanks to those who assisted in the new website and added facilities.
- P5 Annual Report.
- P7 Wireless in the Sky. (Early Australian airborne wireless activity), A synopsis of the RAOTC Presentation by Peter Wolfenden VK3RV, to be given at the Melbourne September 2025 RAOTC luncheon.
- P8 Minutes of Annual General Meeting 2024 of RAOTC.
- P10 Unbiased by Free Grid. Tim Robinson VK3YBP, RAOTC Member 1617 Another instalment from the Wireless Worlds' "Unbiased" column. A background to the unbiased column was part of an article in the March 2025 issue of OTN. It proved quite popular so the stories continue.
- P12 Record Long Distance Short Wave Communication, Tim Robinson VK3YBP RAOTC Member 1617, Australian Commonwealth Liner "Jervis Bay". One of the most notable early Australian achievements in short wave communications was the record distance achieved by a short wave transmitter, which was installed on the Australian Commonwealth Liner "Jervis Bay" in September 1926.
- P15 First Wireless in Tasmania, Tim Robinson VK3YBP RAOTC Member 1617, Early Wireless Telegraphy in Tasmania – 1901, The Duke and Duchess of York embarked on a world tour in the Royal Yacht "Ophir" in 1901. The Ophir visited Australia as part of that tour which included Tasmania.
- P17 F.W. (Pop) Medhurst VK7AH, Introduction Frederick William Medhurst affectionately known as "Pop", came to Tasmania in the late 19th Century at the start of a technological explosion that saw the creation of our hobby of Amateur Radio.
- P22 The story behind the scanning of old OTN's. All editions of OTN now available for download. This was a huge project undertaken by previous editor of OTN, Bill Roper [OAM] VK3BR. He has written an article which details the process of creating the PDF's of previous issues.
- P24 RAOTC Member List
- P28 Why CDs Failed to Stand the Test of Time. Joe Fedewa. CDs were the most popular method for listening to music for over 20 years. Unsurprisingly, something new eventually came to take over...but then something old did, too.
- P31 The New RAOTC Web Site.
- P32 Moving the Station and Downsizing the Antenna. Paul Edwards VK7ZAJ / VK4 RAOTC Member 1324. There comes a time in the lives of us amateur radio operators when health, age, mobility, changed domestic circumstances and the like all conspire to force a drastic downsizing and relocation of the family residence.



P36 The Liddell Grid Scale Battery. Tim Robinson VK3YBP RAOTC Member 1617. Follow the science regarding this, and believe it is time to move away from excuses and start looking at the way humans on this planet are going to move into the future with major changes in the way our weather is affecting us. It is time to look closely at the future.

P40 My Experience During and After Cyclone Tracey December 1974. Judy Burns, XYL of Barrie Burns VK6ADI ex VK8DI.

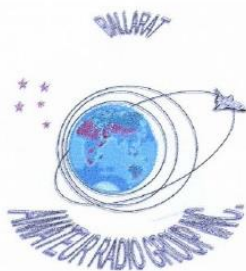
P42 There Are Dragons Out There. Ken McCracken VK2CAX. As a consequence of my interest in radio in Tasmania (with the callsign VK7KM) I became a physicist with a particular interest in the six great bursts of cosmic rays observed on Earth between 1938 and 1956. Following the discovery of cosmic rays in 1910, it was observed that occasionally an intense pulse of high energy cosmic rays reached Earth 10 minutes after a large solar flare. I showed that they arrived at Earth from the wrong direction. This led to a greater understanding of the physical conditions out there and made me a “space expert” at the tender age of 25 !

P47 50th Anniversary Lake Eyre Dxpediton. This year is the 50th anniversary of the DxExpedition undertaken by Bill Rice [VK3ABP - SK] to the shores of Lake Eyre [Madigan Gulf] in 1975.



**I PUT THE
THINGAMABOB INSIDE
THE WHATCHAMACALLIT,
TURNED THE
DOOHICKEY AND THE
WUTEVERITIS STILL
DOESN'T WORK.
ANY IDEAS?**

BARG Office Bearer Nomination Forms



B.A.R.G. Inc. NOMINATION FORM

Ballarat Amateur Radio Group—Inc # 6953T

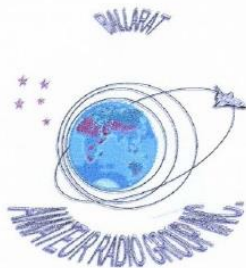
DATE: _____

I wish to Nominate _____ CALL: _____

For the position of _____ of BARG Inc.

Nominated by: _____ and _____

Nomination accepted by: (Nominee) _____



B.A.R.G. Inc. NOMINATION FORM

Ballarat Amateur Radio Group—Inc # 6953T

DATE: _____

I wish to Nominate _____ CALL: _____

For the position of _____ of BARG Inc.

Nominated by: _____ and _____

Nomination accepted by: (Nominee) _____

<http://www.barg.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/BARG-Form-Membership-Application-Form-was-V3-Rev-PA11.pdf>

BARG Form - Membership Application Form (was V3) Rev PA11.docx



Ballarat Amateur Radio Group Inc
Registration Number A0006953T
ABN 44 247 200 143
Application for Club Membership

This completed document should be emailed to the Secretary at BARG@BARG.ORG.AU, or brought along to a face to face meeting.

Surname: _____ **Given Names:** _____

Callsign: _____

Are you a financial member of WIA?: Yes No

Partner's Name: _____

Residential Address: _____

Postcode: _____

Postal Address: _____
(If different to above) **Postcode:** _____

Telephone;
(Work) _____ (Home) _____ (Mobile) _____

Email Address _____

Unless otherwise requested, Newsletters and Club information will be sent to your email address. If the Club decides to publish a Club Directory, are you willing to have the above information included? Please indicate: **Yes** **No**

By applying for membership I indicate my support of the purposes of the Association and agree to comply with the Association rules in effect.

Applicant's Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Proposed By: _____ **Callsign:** _____ **Date:** _____

Seconded By: _____ **Callsign:** _____ **Date:** _____

--ooOoo--

Presented to Committee: _____ **Decision:** Accept / Reject

Fee Paid: \$ _____ **Date:** _____ **Receipt No(if applicable:)** _____

Entered into Membership Register: _____ **Secretary:** _____

BARG Form - Membership Application Form (was V3) Rev PA11.docx1 of 1